

SUBCHAPTER E—GENERAL CONTRACTING REQUIREMENTS

PART 1227—PATENTS, DATA, AND COPYRIGHTS

Subpart 1227.3—Patent Rights Under Government Contracts

Sec.

1227.304 Procedures.

1227.304-5 Appeals.

1227.305 Administration of patent rights clauses.

1227.305-4 Conveyance of invention rights acquired by the Government.

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Subpart 1227.3—Patent Rights Under Government Contracts

1227.304 Procedures.

1227.304-5 Appeals.

(b) Agency actions listed at (FAR) 48 CFR 27.304-5(a)(1) and (a)(3) through (a)(5) may be appealed to the Head of the Contracting Activity (HCA). Actions under this section shall be coordinated with the legal counsel of the responsible office.

(1) Actions must be appealed within 30 days of receipt of the written statement required by (FAR) 48 CFR 27.304-5(a). The contractor must present all pertinent arguments in the appeal along with documentary evidence, if any.

(2) The HCA shall issue a determination within 45 days from the date the contractor's appeal is received.

(c) Appeals of decisions rendered under (FAR) 48 CFR 27.304-5(a)(2) are subject to the following requirements:

(1) Actions must be appealed within 30 days of receipt of the written statement required by (FAR) 48 CFR 27.304-5(a). The contractor must present all pertinent arguments in the appeal along with documentary evidence, if any.

(2) The HCA may hold an informal hearing if deemed appropriate or at the request of the contractor. The informal hearing shall be held after all fact-finding is completed.

(i) If a hearing is held, there shall be a transcribed record of the same. A copy of the transcript shall be available to the contractor at cost.

(ii) Transcription of the hearing may be waived by mutual agreement of the parties.

(3) The HCA shall designate an impartial fact-finding official. The official conducting the fact-finding shall prepare findings of fact and transmit them to the HCA promptly after the conclusion of the fact-finding proceeding along with a recommended determination.

(i) A copy of the findings of fact shall be sent to the contractor (assignee or exclusive licensee) by registered or certified mail. The contractor (assignee or exclusive licensee) and agency representatives will be given 30 days to submit written arguments to the HCA; and, upon request by the contractor oral arguments will be held before the HCA as part of an informal hearing. The HCA will make the final determination as to whether the initial agency action was appropriate under the relevant laws and procedures (See 1227.304-5(c)(4)).

(ii) Any portion of the informal hearing that involves testimony or evidence shall be closed to the public. Agencies shall not disclose any such information obtained in the course of the appeal to persons outside the government except when such release is authorized by the contractor (assignee or licensee).

(4) The HCA's final determination shall be based on the findings of facts, together with any other information and written or oral arguments submitted by the contractor (assignee or exclusive licensee) and agency representatives, and any other information in the administrative record. The HCA may reject only those facts that have been found clearly erroneous and must explicitly state the rejection and the basis for the contrary finding. The HCA shall provide the contractor (assignee or exclusive licensee) a written determination by certified or registered mail no later than 90 days after fact-finding is completed or no later